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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/887,602	06/22/2001	Frederic Bauchot	FR920000050US1	7284

7590 08/06/2004

IBM CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPT. IQOA/BLDG. 040-3
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EXAMINER

PAULA, CESAR B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/887,602

Applicant(s)

BAUCHOT, FREDERIC

Examiner

CESAR B PAULA

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 12/29/03 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the application, and IDS filed on 6/22/2000, and 12/29/2003.

This action is made Non-Final.

2. Claims 1-10 are pending in the case. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 12/29/2003 has been entered, and considered by the examiner.

Priority

4. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), and based on application # 480096.7 filed with the EPO on 10/24/2000, which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

5. The drawings filed on 6/22/2001 have been approved by the examiner.

Claim Objections

6. Claims 4, and 8 are objected to because of the following informalities: "past command" in claim 4, line 7. This seems to refer to a "paste command" Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

9. Claims 1-10 recite the limitation "the content" in claim 1, line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. There is no previous "content" in the claim to refer to.

10. Claims 5, 7, and 9-10 recite the limitation "said table means" in claim 5, line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. There is no previous "table means" in the claim to refer to.

11. Claims 7, and 9-10 recite the limitation "the step of associating the ranges" in claim 7, lines 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. There is no previous "step of associating the ranges" in the claim to refer to.

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12. Claim 8 recites the limitation "the step of storing is said table means" in lines 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. There is no previous " step of storing is said table means " in the claim to refer to.

13. Claim 10 recites the limitation "the step of removing a range of cells" in lines 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. There is no previous " step of removing a range of cells " in the claim to refer to.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al, hereinafter Anderson (Pat.# 5,463,724, 10/31/1995), in view of Barnes, "10 Minute Guide to Windows 3.1", Alpha, 1992, pp.60-64.

Regarding independent claim 1, Anderson discloses the grouping of a page of cells—*defining a set ranges of cells*—for changing multiple pages simultaneously. The pages are a copy

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of the page shown in fig.2C (col.9, lines 61-col.10, lines 31, and col.7, lines 62-col.8, line 10).

In other words, the page of cells have the same size, since they're a carbon copy of each other.

Moreover, Anderson discloses the automatic percolating or replicating of changes made in one block of cells in one page to a version of the same block of cells in other pages—*automatically performing a self-replication operation* (col.10, lines 16-31). In other words, once the block of cells have been modified, this modification is passed to every page in the group—*determining the set of ranges to which the changed range of cells belongs to, and identifying the ranges or pages of cells belonging to said set* or grouping

Moreover, Anderson fails to explicitly disclose: *copying the changed range of cells onto a buffer, and pasting the content of the buffer in each of the identified range of cells belonging to said set*. However, Barnes teaches the copying of information into a clipboard--*buffer*. This information is then pasted from the clipboard into a specified location (page 60, lines 14-20). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Anderson, and Barnes and copy the block of cells into the clipboard, because Barnes teaches above the copying of information from an original location to a second location without disturbing the original information, which provides the benefit of saving the time needed to manually inputting the same information several times.

Regarding claim 2, which depends on claim 1, Anderson discloses creating groups of spreadsheet pages, and including the same page in more than one group—*adding a new range of cells to said ranges of cells* (col.9, lines 60-67, col. 10, lines 1-31).

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In addition, Anderson discloses the entering of data in a spreadsheet page cell located in one group, and ending the entry with a “CTRL-Enter” command—*selecting a new range of cells--*. The entry of the command causes the propagation of entered data to other group of pages—*creating a link between the new range of cells with at least one range of cells with at least one range of cells belonging to said set of ranges of cells* (col. 10, lines 18-31).

Regarding claim 3, which depends on claim 1, Anderson discloses the automatic percolating or replicating of changes made in one block of cells in one page to a version of the same block of cells in other pages—*performing a persistent (not temporary) copy operation* (col.10, lines 16-31). In other words, once the block of cells have been modified, this modification is passed to every page in the group—*selecting a first range of cells*.

In addition, Anderson discloses the entering of data in a spreadsheet page cell located in one group, and ending the entry with a “CTRL-Enter” command. The entry of the command causes the propagation of entered data to other group of pages—*creating a link between each other range of cells and the first range of cells* (col. 10, lines 18-31).

Furthermore, Anderson fails to explicitly disclose: *copying onto a buffer the selected first range of cells, and persistent pasting the content onto each other selected range of cells*.

However, Barnes teaches the copying of information into a clipboard--*buffer*. This information is then pasted from the clipboard into a specified location (page 60, lines 14-20). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Anderson, and Barnes and copy the block of cells into the clipboard, because Barnes teaches above the copying of information from an original location to a second location without

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disturbing the original information, which provides the benefit of saving the time needed to manually inputting the same information several times.

Regarding claim 4, which depends on claim 3, Anderson discloses the automatic percolating or replicating of changes made in one block of cells in one page to a version of the same block of cells in other pages—*invoking a persistent (not temporary) copy and paste command operation* (col.10, lines 16-31). In other words, once the block of cells have been modified, this modification is copied and pasted to every page in the group.

Regarding claim 5, which depends on claim 1, Anderson discloses the storing in a spreadsheet(s) of marks for identifying a spreadsheet page(s), such as A1 to C4—*table name--* of page A, which are used for addressing block of cells in a spreadsheet page—*creating a link in said table between the name of the set and said means for identifying each range of cells* (col.10, lines 16-31, and fig.2C).

Regarding claim 6, which depends on claim 1, Anderson discloses the annotation of spreadsheet groups—*associating the ranges of cells with set dependent display attributes*, such as annotations (col.10, lines 1-15).

Regarding claim 7, which depends on claim 5, Anderson discloses the automatic percolating or replicating of changes made in one block of cells in one page to a version of the same block of cells in other pages. A user inputs selects, and inputs data into a cell, such as

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“Large Ceaser Food cost” (fig.4G, B4)—*set dependent value*, which depends on information in this page, in a spreadsheet page. Once data entry is completed, the data is copied a pasted to other pages which were grouped with the entry page in this group—*associating a first variable with said set of ranges of cells* or pages in the group — (col.10, lines 1-31).

Furthermore, Anderson teaches the display of notebook pages according with certain settable display properties—*displaying the ranges with display attributes according to the value of said first variable* (col.14, lines 1-67)

Regarding claim 8, which depends on claim 4, Anderson discloses using an inspector for determining the various properties of a page or block of cells—*determining current attributes of said range of cells* (col.13, line 45-col.14, line67).

Moreover, Anderson teaches the setting, and changing of page, and block of cells properties changing the display format of the page or block of cells, which are stored in the page or table—*storing in said table said current attributes and associating in said table the range of cells with current attributes* (col.13, line 45-col.14, line67, fig.8A).

Regarding claim 9, which depends on claim 7, Anderson discloses the automatic percolating or replicating of changes made in one block of cells in one page to a version of the same block of cells in other pages. A user inputs selects, and inputs data into a cell, such as “Tossed Food cost” (fig.4G, B4)—*second variable with each range of cells and setting said second variable to a value associated with said current attributes* of the pages they are displayed on, in a spreadsheet page — (col.10, lines 1-31).

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Regarding claim 10, which depends on claim 7, Anderson discloses the cutting or deleting of blocks of cells, and displaying the edited spreadsheet —*removing a range of cells, retrieving the current attributes, and displaying said current display attributes*— (col.10, lines 58-col.11, line20, fig.4G-I).

Conclusion

I. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tortolani et al. (Pat. # 6,317,750), Glassey (Pat. # 5,604,854), Sullivan et al. (Pat. # 6,651,216), Jamshidi et al (Pat. # 6,631,497) and Schlafly (Pat. # 5,471,612).

II. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cesar B. Paula whose telephone number is **(703) 306-5543**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached on (703) 308-5186. However, in such a case, please allow at least one business day.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this Action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

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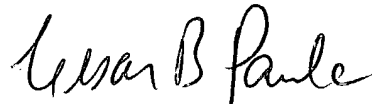
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Or faxed to:

- (703) 703-872-9306, (for all Formal communications intended for entry)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).



CESAR B PAULA
Patent Examiner
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7/29/04